

In re Appl. No. 09/752,514
Confirmation No. 9981

REMARKS

Claims 13 and 14 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of December 30, 2002, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The Examiner states that there is insufficient written description to show that Applicant was in possession of any "site-directed molecular antagonist" capable of antagonizing SP-22, other than antibodies. The Examiner states that the claims are now limited to peptides that bind to SP-22 or to functional fragments thereof.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to recite peptides that bind to SP-22. The specification as filed at page 28, paragraphs 77-78, describes how peptides can be identified which interact with functional SP22 peptides.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly

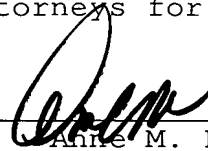
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solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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